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Application No. 10/649,068
Amendment dated January 18, 2007
Reply to Office Action of October 18, 2006

Docket No.: 65937-0037

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A medical targeting and device introduction system, comprising:

a cannula having an open distal end and an open proximal end that defines a first length, wherein the cannula defines a lumen therein;

an introducer stylet that includes a distal end and a proximal end that defines a second length that is substantially longer than the first length; wherein the introducer stylet is selectively and removably disposed within the lumen of the cannula such that the introducer stylet may be translated within the lumen such that the distal end of the introducer stylet extends outwardly from the distal end of the cannula when the introducer stylet is positioned within the cannula; and

a target confirmation device that is selectively insertable within the cannula when the introducer stylet is removed from the cannula, wherein the target confirmation device includes a distal end that extends substantially outwardly from the distal end of the cannula when the target confirmation device is engaged with the cannula.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the cannula is configured to introduce at least one of a biopsy device, a site marker, an anesthesia, a fluid, a tamponade, and a hemostatic agent.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the target confirmation device includes a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) identifiable material.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, wherein the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) identifiable material is a band disposed proximate a distal end of the target confirmation device so as to extend distally of the distal end of the cannula.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the system is magnetic resonance

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imaging (MRI) compatible.

7. (Currently Amended) A biopsy system suitable for use with a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) device, comprising:

a cannula insertable into a patient's tissue, wherein the cannula includes an open distal end and an open proximal end and wherein the cannula defines a first length;

an introducer stylet removably disposed within the cannula and configured for tissue penetration and is slidable within the cannula, wherein the introducer stylet includes a distal end and a proximal end, and wherein the introducer stylet defines a second length that is substantially longer than the first length such that when the introducer stylet is fully inserted into the cannula, the distal end of the introducer stylet extends through the distal end of the cannula and substantially away from the distal end of the cannula;

a separate target confirmation device that is selectively insertable within the cannula when the introducer stylet is removed from the cannula, wherein the target confirmation device including includes a distal end that extends substantially outwardly from the distal end of the cannula when the target confirmation device is engaged with the cannula; wherein the target confirmation device further includes a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) identifiable material disposed adjacent to the distal end thereof such that the material is positioned outwardly from the distal end of the cannula when the target confirmation device is positioned within the cannula; and

a biopsy device that is selectively insertable within the cannula.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the cannula is configured to introduce at least one of a site marker, an anesthesia, a fluid, a tamponade and a hemostatic agent into the patient.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the distal end of the target confirmation device ~~magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) identifiable material is shaped~~ has a predetermined shape so as to distinguish the target confirmation device from the patient's tissue.

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10. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) identifiable material is a band disposed proximate a distal end of the target confirmation device.

11. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the biopsy system is magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) compatible.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein a distal end of the introducer stylet includes a tissue piercing member.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the outer cannula includes an inner lumen and a fluid conduit for delivering fluid provided in communication with the inner lumen.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the fluid conduit includes a directional valve.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the target confirmation device includes a proximal end having a first fitting interface that engages a second fitting interface on the outer cannula upon insertion of the target confirmation device into the outer cannula.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the outer cannula includes a haemostatic valve.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the target confirmation

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device includes a relatively low artifact generating material sufficient to permit the material to be readily identified under magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, further including a biopsy device that includes a handpiece and a cutting element, the cutting element defining a tissue-receiving opening for removing tissue from the target site.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the distance between a proximal end and a distal end of the target confirmation device is approximately equal to the distance between the center of the tissue receiving opening of the cutting element and the handpiece of the biopsy device.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22~~5~~, wherein the distance between a proximal end of the target confirmation device and the targeting band is approximately equal to the distance between the center of the tissue receiving opening and the handpiece of the biopsy device.

24. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the length of the cutting element is approximately equal to the length of the introducer stylet.

25. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the length of the target confirmation device is approximately equal to the length of the introducer stylet.

26. (Currently Amended) A medical procedure, comprising:
inserting an introducer stylet into an outer cannula such that a distal end of the introducer stylet extends substantially outwardly from a distal end of the outer cannula;
inserting the introducer stylet, having an the outer cannula disposed thereon into a patient's
body creating a pathway to a target tissue;

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removing the introducer stylet from the patient's body leaving behind the outer cannula; and inserting a target confirmation device into the patient's body through the outer cannula such that a distal end of the target confirmation device extends substantially outwardly from a the distal end of the cannula and confirming the location of the target tissue relative to the ~~outer cannula~~ target confirmation device.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, further including the step of providing an image of the target tissue prior to or contemporaneous with inserting the introducer stylet into the patient's body.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, further including the step of providing an image of the target confirmation device within the patient's body.

29. (Original) The method of claim 26, further including the step of removing the target confirmation device and inserting a biopsy device through the outer cannula to a position adjacent the target tissue.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further including the step of performing a biopsy of the target tissue.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, further including the step of aspirating a biopsy site formed after removing the target tissue.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, further including the step of inserting a medical treatment into the biopsy site through the outer cannula.

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 1, further including a tissue resection device including a tissue receiving opening, said tissue receiving opening rotatable relative to said cannula.

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34. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 7, said biopsy device including a tissue receiving opening, said tissue receiving opening rotatable relative to said cannula.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the target confirmation device is a low artifact generating material.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the target confirmation device provides a low artifact.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the target confirmation device is a signal void generating material.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the target confirmation device provides a signal void.

40. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the length of the target confirmation device is approximately equal to the length of the cutting element.

41. (Original) The method of claim 26, further including the step of providing an image of the target tissue after inserting the introducer stylet into the patient's body.

42. (Original) The method of claim 26, further including a biopsy device including a tissue receiving opening, said tissue receiving opening rotatable relative to said outer cannula.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

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45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (Canceled)

49. (Canceled)

50. (New) The system of claim 7, wherein the biopsy device includes an outer cannula and an inner cannula disposed in the outer cannula, wherein the inner cannula has a cutting element disposed on a distal end thereof and the outer cannula has a tissue receiving opening.